



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
07.06.2000 Bulletin 2000/23

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04M 3/22, H04Q 3/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
15.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/16

(21) Application number: **97306192.2**

(22) Date of filing: **14.08.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
 NL PT SE**
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

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(30) Priority: **17.08.1996 GB 9617329**

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(54) **Methods and apparatus for verifying network database query-response transactions**

(57) Database query and response messages traversing signalling links in an SS7 signalling system, to enable local number portability (LNP) to be implemented, are passively monitored by a verification system. This verification system has its own copy of the LNP da-

tabase, which it interrogates with information contained in a monitored query message. The system compares the results of this interrogation with the contents of the monitored response message corresponding to the query message. Any discrepancy indicates a potential problem with the LNP database.

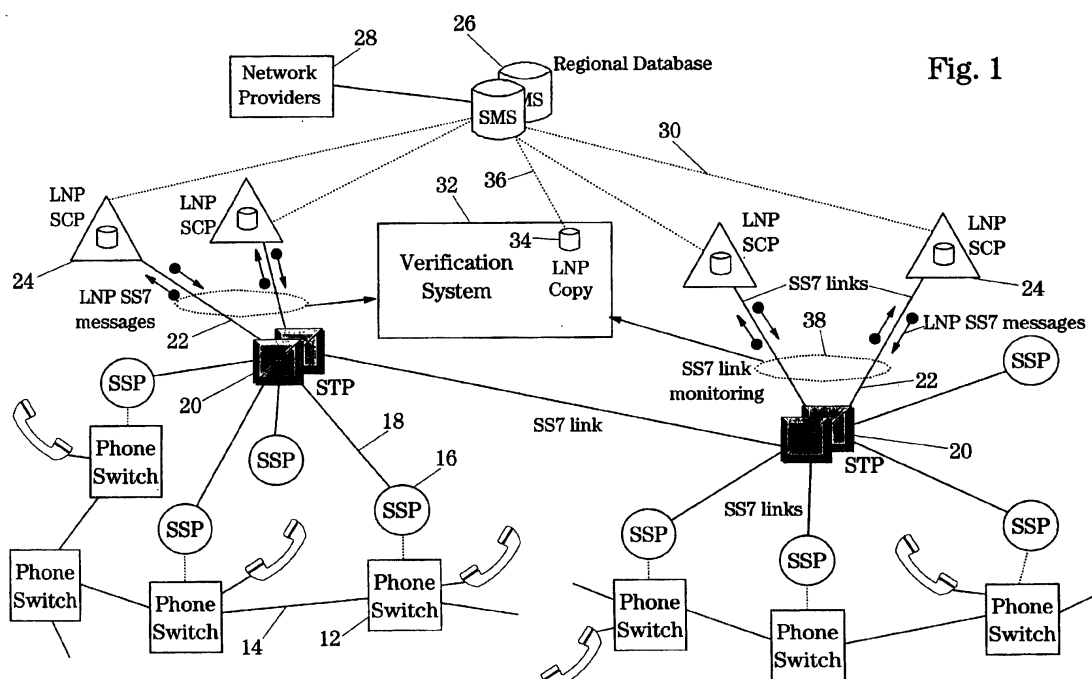


Fig. 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 6192

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 April 2000	Examiner Ströbeck, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 6192

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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